

REMARKS

The present amendment is submitted in conjunction with a Request for Continued Examination and in response to the Advisory Action mailed August 11, 2008.

Claims 1-12 and 15-19 are pending in this application

In the Advisory Action, the final rejection of the claims as set forth in the final rejection of April 25, 2008 was maintained.

In the present amendment, claim 1 has been amended to more clearly define the invention over the cited references by adding the features of claims 13 and 14, both of which have been canceled, as well as features from the specification of the application as originally filed. The Applicants note that the amended version of claim 1 corresponds to patented claim 1 of the corresponding European Patent No., EP 1 609 273 B1.

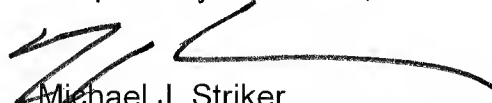
Specifically, amended claim 1 now defines that the participant further comprises *at least one counter configured for edge detection and controlled by a receive element timing and an edge, wherein the input signal of a participant is checked for its presence by means of an edge detection in the participant, and wherein if a signal is absent at its input, a participant generates a zero-bit current for subsequent participants*. Support for the new features can be found in the original specification in the paragraph bridging pages 9 and 10 and on page 10, second paragraph.

The Applicants respectfully submit that the art of record, whether viewed alone or in combination, fails to disclose the additional feature of the counters for edge detection that are controlled by a receive element timing and an edge, as defined in amended claim 1.

Reconsideration of amended claim 1 and allowance of the application is therefore respectfully requested.

The applicant in its amended state is believed to be in condition for allowance. Action to this end is courteously solicited. However, should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, the undersigned would very much welcome a telephone call in order to discuss appropriate claim language that will place the application into condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael J. Striker', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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